

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11 and 22-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 22 and 23 are amended and claim 24 is canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the specification at paragraphs [0032]-[0034] and in claim 24 as originally filed. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Ouellette during the telephone interview held September 24, 2008 are appreciated. The reasons presented during the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0105665 to Wasilewski et al. ("Wasilewski"). By this Amendment, claim 24 is canceled, rendering the rejection moot as to that claim. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Wasilewski at least fails to teach or suggest "directly establishing a communication link to a portable device through an IR port, an USB port, or a RS-232 port, wherein the transfer of the computer file from the first storage media is controlled by the portable electronic device" (emphasis added) as required by claim 1. Likewise, Wasilewski at least

fails to teach or suggest "a portable electronic device interface, wherein the portable electronic device interface directly establishes a communication link through an IR port, an USB port, or a RS-232 port and, wherein transfer of the computer file from the first storage media to the sheet storage media or the electronic storage media is controlled by a portable electronic device connected to the portable electronic device interface" (emphasis added) as required by claim 22.

Rather, Wasilewski is silent on a portable electronic device interface that directly establishes a communication link to a portable electronic device through a port. Furthermore, Wasilewski is silent on a portable electronic device controlling the transfer of a computer file from a first storage media. See pages 3 and 5 of the Office Action (acknowledging the same). Applicants reemphasize that the peripherals/ports of Wasilewski are only for connecting storage devices. See paragraphs [0056] and [0058] of Wasilewski. Storage devices are not portable electronic devices. For example, storage devices (i.e. electronic storage media) include CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, etc. See paragraph [0056] of Wasilewski; paragraph [0033] of the specification. Portable electronic devices include, for example, laptops, digital cameras, cellular phones, PDAs, etc. See paragraph [0033] of the specification. Thus, the peripherals/ports of Wasilewski do not connect portable electronic devices. Accordingly, Wasilewski is silent on a portable electronic device interface.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed subject matter provides a solution to a disadvantage of the prior art. See MPEP §2145(X..D.3). Like other prior art, Wasilewski recognized that "[t]here is a need to provide a kiosk with the ability to import photographic images (i.e.; scanned from film; transferred digitally from a digital still camera, hand-held device or memory device; or downloaded from an Internet-enabled storage location)." See paragraph [0011] of Wasilewski. Thus, Wasilewski and other prior art recognized the need to transfer an image file from a portable electronic device to a kiosk. Id.

However, Wasilewski and other prior art fail to recognize and provide a solution to the disadvantage of relying solely on stand-alone storage devices as intermediates for transferring an image file from a portable electronic device. For example, a person may be traveling without access to a personal computer, but may want to transfer files from a portable electronic device onto electronic or sheet (e.g., paper) media and afterward delete the files to free up memory without relying on expensive intermediate storage devices, such as memory cards. See, e.g., paragraph [0005] of the specification.

In light of Wasilewski's recognition of the need to import images from a portable electronic device, Wasilewski would have provided for a direct communication link to a portable electronic device except that Wasilewski, like other prior art, did not recognize the disadvantage of solely relying on such storage devices. Thus, Wasilewski did not provide a solution thereto. Conversely, claims 1 and 22 directly and advantageously establish a communication link to a portable electronic device through a port for transferring a computer file from an electronic device-controlled storage media (i.e. first storage media).

Furthermore, Wasilewski fails to teach or suggest "a sheet media distribution device for distributing a sheet storage media . . . configured to distribute both blank and information carrying sheet media [and] an electronic media distribution device for distributing a portable electronic media . . . configured to distribute both blank and information carrying electronic media" as required by claim 22. Indeed, Wasilewski is silent on a sheet media distribution device and an electronic media distribution device configured to distribute both blank and information carrying electronic media. For example, Wasilewski discloses that "[o]ther outputs at the kiosk include CD, memory card/stick and disk using the computer peripherals" (reference numeral omitted), but fully fails to teach or suggest distributing (e.g., after purchase) such electronic media whether in blank or information carrying form. See paragraph [0060] of Wasilewski. Wasilewski further does not suggest doing so because

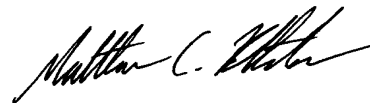
Wasilewski is primarily directed to providing and editing images printed to photographic paper products. Id.

Thus, Wasilewski would not have rendered obvious claims 1 and 22. Claims 2, 5, 6, 11, and 23 variously depend from claims 1 and 22 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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